



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Witness Biographies

Religious Freedom Around the Globe

Panel I



Nadine Maenza is Chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). She is a noted speaker, writer, and policy expert with more than two decades of experience as an advocate for working families and a champion for international religious freedom. She is the President of Patriot Voices, where she shapes the organization's special emphasis on public policies that support working families. She has represented USCIRF in delegations to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Thailand, Taiwan, and Uzbekistan. She is most honored to have met with persecuted communities of various faiths from around the world.

Panel 2



Bob (Xiqiu) Fu is one of the leading voices in the world for persecuted faith communities in China. Fu was born and raised in mainland China and was a student leader during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations for freedom and democracy in 1989. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Fu currently serves as the Family Research Council's Senior Fellow for International Religious Freedom in addition to responsibilities as President of ChinaAid. He is the winner of the 2020 Wilberforce Award from the Colson Center and the Editor-In-Chief of the Chinese Law and Religion Monitor.



Anthony Vance, Director of Public Affairs, Bahá'ís of the United States. Mr. Vance oversees the development of the office's programs and strategic direction. He joined the office in 2010 after spending four years at the Baha'i World Center in Haifa, Israel representing it to the diplomatic community, civil society, and parts of the host government. A lawyer by training, he spent 21 years in the U.S. Agency for International Development in legal and managerial positions in Washington, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Botswana, and Egypt. He holds a B.A. in Economics, an MBA, and a J.D. from Harvard University.



Amjad Mahmood Khan is Adjunct Professor of Law at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Law School and Partner at Brown, Neri, Smith & Khan LLP, where he practices commercial litigation. He served as judicial clerk for the Honorable Warren J. Ferguson, Senior Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Amjad's academic work focuses on transnational legal studies, comparative constitutional law and national security. He is a recognized expert on religious freedom in the Islamic world and volunteers as National Director of Public Affairs for Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA.



Matthew Hassan Kukah, is the bishop, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria. Bishop Kukah has served in many presidential initiatives such as the Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission, the Electoral Reform Committee and the National Political Reform Conference. He was the presidential facilitator who negotiated an end to the hostilities between Shell Petroleum Development Company and the Ogoni people. He also served on a Committee set up by the Northern Governors to examine the crisis of Boko Haram. He is Chairman of the Interreligious Dialogue Committees for both the Bishops' Conferences of Nigeria and West Africa and is a Member of the Dicastery on Integral Human

Development, Vatican City, and the Advisory Council of the Vienna based, King Abdulazeez International Council for Interreligious Dialogue.



Dr. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd is Professor of Political Science and Religious Studies and holds the Crown Chair in Middle East Studies at Northwestern University. Dr. Hurd has taught at Northwestern since 2002 and studies religion in U.S. foreign and immigration policy, the global politics of religious freedom, religion and the American border, and relations between the U.S., Europe, Turkey, and Iran. She is the author of *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations* (2008) and *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New*

Global Politics of Religion (2015), both published by Princeton. She is also co-editor, with Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, of *At Home and Abroad: The Politics of American Religion* (Columbia, 2021) and *Theologies of American Exceptionalism* (Indiana University Press, 2020), and co-editor of *Politics of Religious Freedom* (University of Chicago, 2015) and *Comparative Secularisms in a Global Age* (Palgrave, 2010). Dr. Hurd co-directs the Global Religion & Politics Research Group at Northwestern, and co-curates the Teaching Law & Religion Case Study Archive. Her writings have appeared in *Boston Review*, *Public Culture*, *The Atlantic*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Washington Post*.



Rev. Susan Hayward is the Associate Director for the Religious Literacy and the Professions Initiative at Harvard Divinity School's Religion and Public Life program. In this role, she works with leaders in secular-defined fields and civic spaces to understand how religion impacts social, political, and economic life in order to strengthen efforts to build just peace. Prior, Hayward spent fourteen years with the U.S. Institute of Peace's Religion and Inclusive Societies program, where she led the Institute's efforts to understand and engage religious factors and actors shaping conflict and peace worldwide. Rev. Hayward helped design and implement peace

projects in partnership with diverse religious communities in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and Iraq. Rev. Hayward serves as an advisor to the Trans-Atlantic Policy Network for Religion and Diplomacy, the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, and Churches for Middle East Peace. Rev. Hayward studied Buddhism in Nepal and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ



Gulzira Auyelkhan, of the Kazakh Muslim minority from Xinjiang Gulzira Auelhan is originally from Xinjiang's Ghulja County, coming from a family of cattle breeders. She moved to Kazakhstan with her family in 2014, where she and her husband would also do farm work and herding, and is now a legal Kazakhstan resident. Gulzira Auelhan spent over a year in various forms of concentration camps, including a factory. Following media exposure of her case in late 2018, she was quickly interrogated and then allowed to rejoin her family in Kazakhstan.